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## **Alan Jackson and Gary Allan to Open the Kentucky State Fair**

**Louisville, Ky. (March 8, 2013)** – Alan Jackson and Gary Allan, two dynamic chart-topping country artists will open the 2013 Kentucky State Fair on Thursday, August 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$49 and \$39 (includes gate admission and facility fee) and go on sale Monday, March 18 at 10 a.m.

Alan Jackson is one of the most prolific singer-songwriters in country music. Known for his unique blend of honkytonk and mainstream country, Jackson has recorded 14 studio albums, three Greatest Hits albums, two Christmas albums and one Gospel album. More than 50 of his songs have appeared on Billboard's "Top 30 Country Songs" list with 35 hitting the top spot on the charts. Jackson has won 17 American Country Music Awards, 16 Country Music Academy Awards and two Grammys. He has sold more than 60 million records worldwide.

Jackson is in the elite company of Paul McCartney and John Lennon among songwriters who have written more than 20 songs that they've recorded and taken to the top of the charts. His most recent album, *Thirty Miles West*, topped the country chart when it was released in June of 2012 – the album features the Grammy®-nominated song, "So You Don't Have to Love Me Anymore."

Opening act Gary Allan's gritty vocals and not-quite-mainstream sound will appeal to fans of classic country. Allan has released nine studio albums and a Greatest Hits album. Of his songs, 26 have made the Billboard's "Hot Country Songs" chart and four have reached the number one spot, including "Every Storm (Runs Out of Rain)" and "Nothing on But the Radio."

Hailing from La Marida, California, Allan was raised in a musical household and began playing honkytonks with his father when he was 13. As a teenager he was offered his first recording contract, which his family turned down in favor of continuing his education and developing his own sound. The waiting paid off artistically for Allan. The New York Times has described his sound as "elegant, often deadpan songs [that] tend toward manly understatement."

Tickets may be purchased at the Kentucky Exposition Center and the Kentucky International Convention Center Ticket Offices. Tickets may also be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets, by phone at 1-800-745-3000 and online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

The 2013 Kentucky State Fair runs from August 15-25. For more information visit <http://www.kystatefair.org>.

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The Kentucky State Fair is an 11-day celebration of the history, heritage and culture of the Bluegrass State. Nearly 600,000 attend America's largest indoor fair, which uses all 1.2 million square feet of contiguous exhibit space at the Kentucky Exposition Center. While its roots are in agriculture, the Kentucky State Fair has grown into a trade and public education exposition, as well as a major entertainment venue. The World's Championship Horse Show, held during the Fair, is the world's richest and most prestigious Saddlebred show. Attendees and exhibitors contribute over \$16.8 million annually in economic impact.